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RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/51/726/Add.1)]

51/234. Financing of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission

The General Assembly,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General on the financing of the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission,[1] the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[2] and the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services,[3]

Recalling Security Council resolutions 687 (1991) of 3 April 1991 and 689 (1991) of 9 April 1991, by which the Council decided to establish the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission and to review the question of its termination or continuation every six months,

Recalling also its resolution 45/260 of 3 May 1991 on the financing of the Observation Mission and its subsequent resolutions and decisions thereon, the latest of which were resolution 50/234 of 7 June 1996 and decision 51/440 of 16 December 1996,

Reaffirming that the costs of the Observation Mission that are not covered by voluntary contributions are expenses of the Organization to be borne by Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations,

Recalling its previous decisions regarding the fact that, in order to meet the expenditures caused by the Observation Mission, a different procedure is required from the one applied to meet expenditures of the regular budget of the United Nations,

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[1] A/51/658/Add.1 and 2.

[2] A/51/683/Add.1.

[3] A/51/432, annex.

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Taking into account the fact that the economically more developed countries are in a position to make relatively larger contributions and that the economically less developed countries have a relatively limited capacity to contribute towards such an operation,

Bearing in mind the special responsibilities of the States permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963, in the financing of such operations,

Expressing its appreciation for the substantial voluntary contributions made to the Observation Mission by the Government of Kuwait and the contributions of other Governments,

Mindful of the fact that it is essential to provide the Observation Mission with the necessary financial resources to enable it to fulfil its responsibilities under the relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. Takes note of the status of contributions to the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission as at 15 May 1997, including the contributions outstanding in the amount of 9,455,734 United States dollars, representing 4 per cent of the total assessed contributions from the inception of the Mission to the period ending 30 April 1997, notes that some 32 per cent of the Member States have paid their assessed contributions in full, and urges all other Member States concerned, in particular those in arrears, to ensure the payment of their outstanding assessed contributions;

2. Expresses its continued appreciation of the decision of the Government of Kuwait to defray two thirds of the cost of the Observation Mission, effective 1 November 1993;

3. Expresses concern about the financial situation with regard to peacekeeping activities, in particular as regards the reimbursement of troop contributors, which bear burdens owing to overdue payments by Member States of their assessments;

4. Expresses its appreciation to those Member States which have paid their assessed contributions in full;

5. Urges all other Member States to make every possible effort to ensure payment of their assessed contributions to the Observation Mission in full and on time;

6. Endorses the observations and recommendations contained in the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions[2] and in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services;[3]

7. Requests the Secretary-General to take all necessary action to ensure that the Observation Mission is administered with a maximum of efficiency and economy;

8. Decides to appropriate to the Special Account for the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission the amount of 51,487,500 dollars gross (49,599,300 dollars net) for the maintenance of the Observation Mission for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, inclusive of an amount of 1,952,100 dollars for the support account for peacekeeping operations, a two-thirds share of this amount, equivalent to 33,066,200 dollars, to be funded through voluntary contributions from the Government of Kuwait, subject to the review by the Security Council with regard to the question of termination or continuation of the Mission;

9. Decides also, as an ad hoc arrangement, taking into consideration the funding through voluntary contributions from the Government of Kuwait of the two-thirds share of the cost of the Observation Mission, equivalent to 33,066,200 dollars, to apportion among Member States the amount of 18,421,300 dollars gross (16,533,100 dollars net), representing one third of the cost of the maintenance of the Observation Mission for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998, the said amount to be assessed at a monthly rate of 1,535,108 dollars gross (1,377,758 dollars net), in accordance with the composition of groups set out in paragraphs 3 and 4 of General Assembly resolution 43/232 of 1 March 1989, as adjusted by the Assembly in its resolutions 44/192 B of 21 December 1989, 45/269 of 27 August 1991, 46/198 A of 20 December 1991, 47/218 A of 23 December 1992, 49/249 A of 20 July 1995, 49/249 B of 14 September 1995, 50/224 of 11 April 1996 and 51/218 A and B of 18 December 1996 and its decisions 48/472 A of 23 December 1993 and 50/451 B of 23 December 1995, and taking into account the scale of assessments for the year 1997, as set out in its resolution 49/19 B of 23 December 1994 and its decision 50/471 A of 23 December 1995, and for the year 1998,[4] subject to the review by the Security Council with regard to the question of termination or continuation of the Observation Mission;

10. Decides further that, in accordance with the provisions of its resolution 973 (X) of 15 December 1955, there shall be set off against the apportionment among Member States, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the Tax Equalization Fund of the estimated staff assessment income of 1,888,200 dollars approved for the period from 1 July 1997 to 30 June 1998;

11. Decides that, taking into consideration the funding through voluntary contributions from the Government of Kuwait of the two-thirds share of the cost of the Observation Mission, for Member States that have fulfilled their financial obligations to the Mission, there shall be set off against the apportionment, as provided for in paragraph 9 above, their respective share in the unencumbered balance of 1,723,200 dollars gross (1,440,000 dollars net), representing one third of the unencumbered balance of 4,603,200 dollars gross (4,320,000 dollars net) in respect of the period from 1 January to 30 June 1996;

12. Decides also that, for Member States that have not fulfilled their financial obligations to the Observation Mission, their share of the unencumbered balance of 1,723,200 dollars gross (1,440,000 dollars net) for the period from 1 January to 30 June 1996 shall be set off against their outstanding obligations;

13. Decides further that two thirds of the net unencumbered balance of 4,320,000 dollars, equivalent to 2,880,000 dollars, shall be returned to the Government of Kuwait;

14. Requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to recover the overpayment of mission subsistence allowance in the estimated amount of 988,443.5 dollars and to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-second session on the results of action taken for its recovery, including measures taken with respect to those responsible for the overpayment;

15. Invites voluntary contributions to the Observation Mission in cash and in the form of services and supplies acceptable to the Secretary-General, to be administered, as appropriate, in accordance with the procedure and practices established by the General Assembly;

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[4] To be adopted by the General Assembly.

16. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of the fifty-second session, under the item entitled "Financing of the activities arising from Security Council resolution 687 (1991)", the sub-item entitled "United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission".

101st plenary meeting
13 June 1997